Stage Gate Process, Testing, and Evaluation

C2 Breakout Session Report-Out

Solar America Initiative
Technical Exchange Meeting
April 17, 2006

Stage Gate

- Let the Technology Pathway Partnerships define their own gates and criteria using internal process as applicable but also within DOE framework

- Allow staging over interim timeframes to achieve new products on the street as needed

- Timing of gate reviews with multiple components may be difficult

- Reporting - let the Stage Gate milestones drive the major documentation

- Identify DOE technical point of contact for each Technology Pathway Partnership

Stage Gate

- Some DOE involvement with review, but Technology Pathway Partnership should decide when reviews will be conducted.

- Testing and Evaluation scheduling is critical to meet Stage Gate milestones and DOE needs to commit that Labs will be available with point of contacts.

- Component cost reductions need to be baselined, and how they impact LCOE must be specified

- Let Technology Pathway Partnership determine gates and milestones

- Need flexibility in assessing progress and meeting gates

- Need to evaluate baseline and assumptions as well as criteria specified at gates

Testing and Evaluation

- Need Clarification of Lab Roles and Point of Contacts

  - Some past relationships can make current communications confusing
  - OCI concerns over lab roles
  - Need clear communication and points of contact
  - DOE needs to provide information regarding T&E capacity and availability; scheduling of Testing and Evaluation support will be concern during negotiations; need LAB Point of Contacts and contacts to discuss Testing and Evaluation planning during proposal formulation; identify those on FOA teams so we know who can and cannot be contacted

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Testing and Evaluation

- COMMUNICATION - Want general information / better communication regarding Testing and Evaluation capabilities of labs

- T&E VOLUME - Likely increase (3X) in Testing and Evaluation utilization by Technology Pathway Partnerships; important the labs meet performance schedules; resource availability will likely be issue; universities can add capacity

- CONFIDENTIALITY – must maintain confidentiality of protocol testing between Technology Pathway Partnerships and labs; current processes seem to be working

- RELIABILITY TESTING – not just performance testing will be needed; reliability testing (in environmental conditions) must be included